

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A porous body which is soluble or dispersible in aqueous media comprising a three dimensional oil and water emulsion-templated open-cell lattice containing:

- (a) 10 to 95% by weight of a polymeric material which is soluble in water,
- (b) less than 5% by weight of a surfactant,
- (c) a hydrophobic material to be dispersed when the water soluble polymer dissolves

Wherein said porous bodies ~~having~~ have an intrusion volume as measured by mercury porosimetry of at least about 3 ml/g, and with the proviso that said porous bodies are not spherical beads having an average bead diameter of 0.2 to 5mm.

Claim 2 (Original) Porous bodies as claimed in claim 1 wherein the bodies are in the form of powders, beads or moulded bodies.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) Porous bodies as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the polymeric material is a homopolymer or copolymer made from one or more of the following (co)monomers:- alkenes; dienes; urethanes; vinyl esters; styrenics; alkyl (meth)acrylates; alkyl (meth)acrylamides; (meth)acrylo-nitrile; vinyl ethers; imides; amides; anhydrides, esters; ethers, carbonates; isothiocyanates; silanes; siloxanes; sulphones; aliphatic and aromatic alcohols; aromatic and aliphatic acids; aromatic and aliphatic amines

Claim 4 (Original) Porous bodies as claimed in claim 3 wherein the polymeric material is polyvinyl alcohol.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) Porous bodies as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the porous polymeric bodies have water soluble materials incorporated into the polymeric lattice.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) Water soluble porous polymeric bodies as claimed in claim 5 wherein the water soluble material is selected from the group consisting of water soluble vitamins; water soluble fluorescers; activated aluminium chlorhydrate; transition metal complexes used as bleaching catalysts; water soluble polymers; diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA); primary and secondary alcohol sulphates containing greater than C8 chain length or mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) Water soluble porous polymeric bodies as claimed in claim 1 wherein the water insoluble material is selected from the group consisting of antimicrobial agents; antidandruff agent; skin lightening agents; fluorescing agents; antifoams; hair conditioning agents; fabric conditioning agents; skin conditioning agents; dyes; UV protecting agents; bleach or bleach precursors; antioxidants; insecticides; pesticides; herbicides; perfumes or precursors thereto; flavourings or precursors thereto; pharmaceutically active materials; hydrophobic polymeric materials and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A method for preparing water dispersible or water soluble porous bodies which are soluble or dispersible in non-aqueous media comprising an oil and water emulsion-templated three dimensional open cell lattice containing 10 to 95% by weight of a polymeric material which is soluble in water, and, less than 5% by weight of a surfactant, said porous bodies having an intrusion volume as measured by mercury porosimetry ~~(as hereinafter described)~~ of at least about 3 ml/g, and, with the proviso that

said porous bodies are not spherical beads having an average bead diameter of 0.2 to 5mm: said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a water-in-oil emulsion in which the continuous phase comprises the polymeric material and any surfactant in an aqueous medium
- b) providing a fluid freezing medium at a temperature effective for rapidly freezing the aqueous medium;
- c) cooling the water-in-oil emulsion with the fluid freezing medium at a temperature below the freezing point of the liquid medium for a period effective to rapidly freeze the liquid medium; and
- d) freeze-drying the frozen liquid medium to form the porous bodies by removal of the liquid medium by sublimation.

Claim 9 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the cooling of the liquid medium is accomplished by spraying an atomised water-in-oil emulsion into the fluid freezing medium; by dropping drops of a water-in-oil emulsion into the fluid freezing medium or by pouring a water-in-oil emulsion into a mould and cooling the emulsion in the mould.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 or 9—wherein the polymeric material is a homopolymer or copolymer made from one or more of the following (co)monomers:- Alkenes; dienes; urethanes; vinyl esters; styrenics; alkyl (meth)acrylates; alkyl (meth)acrylamides; (meth)acrylonitrile; vinyl ethers; imides; amides; anhydrides, esters; ethers, carbonates; isothiocyanates; silanes; siloxanes; sulphones; aliphatic and aromatic alcohols; aromatic and aliphatic acids; aromatic and aliphatic amines.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the polymeric material is polyvinyl alcohol.

Claim 12 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the discontinuous phase of the emulsion comprises 10 to 95% by volume of the emulsion.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the discontinuous phase of the emulsion comprises 20 to 60% by volume of the emulsion.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the discontinuous phase of the emulsion is selected from the group consisting of alkanes; cyclic hydrocarbons; halogenated alkanes; esters; ketones; ethers; volatile cyclic silicones and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) Solutions or dispersions comprising a polymeric material obtainable by exposing the porous bodies of ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1 to a aqueous medium.